

Official postal stationery perfins can be an interesting but difficult specialty

By Vice President Rudy Roy

The government-issued postal card from New South Wales shown here with perfins OS/NSW is the first official perfins postal stationery item that I have seen. Are there others?

Perfins on postal stationery is a specialty area of perfins collecting, made even more interesting by the fact that there are not that many examples known from the few countries to have permitted the practice. Most examples are known on stationery from Great Britain and Belgium.

Great Britain perfins stationery can be found on en-



velopes and registered envelopes as well as on postal cards, and generally the perfins pattern is only through the indicia. In Great Britain it

was possible to purchase stationery envelopes 'printed to private order,' in which case the envelopes came unfolded, thus allowing for a perfins pattern to be placed only through the indicia and not through both the indicia and the back of the envelope.

The illustrated card was sent from Sydney on January 13, 1913, by the Government Printing Office to the Wagga Experimental Farm, and is notification that six cheque books were sent by rail. It is interesting to note that the card is annotated that the cheque books were received on the same date! Since the postmark time recorded is 5:00 pm, I wonder which arrived first—the card or the package?

I would welcome correspondence and information on additional examples of official perfins postal stationery. Write (or e-mail) me at the address shown inside the back page of the *Bulletin*. And, the next time you have an opportunity to go through an accumulation of British or Belgian postal stationery, look for perfins through the indicia—they're not always easy to spot, especially on Great Britain registration envelopes where the indicia is on the flap.